

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently amended) A method for navigating and displaying a plurality of
2 relational objects, ~~wherein the plurality of relational objects comprise a directed graph, the~~
3 ~~directed graph further comprising a plurality of hierarchies wherein a first of the plurality of~~
4 ~~hierarchies shares a common node with a second of the plurality of hierarchies, wherein the~~
5 ~~common node is the parent node for a child sub-tree, and wherein at least one of the first and~~
6 ~~second hierarchies does not include all nodes of the child sub-tree, the method comprising:~~
7 receiving a selection input;
8 identifying, based on the selection input, a focus node, the focus node being one of a
9 plurality of relational objects, wherein:
10 the plurality of relational objects comprise a node link structure;
11 the node link structure further comprising a plurality of hierarchies of nodes;
12 a first of the plurality of hierarchies shares the common node with a second of the
13 plurality of hierarchies;
14 the common node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy and a second parent
15 node in the second hierarchy;
16 the common node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes
17 in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of
18 one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and
19 the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more
20 nodes;
21 displaying the focus node on a display medium;
22 determining whether a child node of the focus node exists, wherein the child node
23 comprises one of the a plurality of relational objects other than the focus node, the
24 child node having a subordinate relationship with the focus node;
25 if a child node exists, displaying on the display medium, the child node;
26 determining whether a parent node of the focus node exists, wherein the parent node
27 comprises one of the plurality of relational objects other than the focus node and
28 the child node, the focus node having a relationship subordinate to the parent
29 node; and

30 if a parent object exists, displaying on a display medium the parent node.

1 2. (Original) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein displaying the focus node
2 further comprises displaying the focus node in a textual format, wherein the textual format is a
3 format other than a format that illustrates the focus object and the first related object as nodes
4 connected by a graphical relationship symbol such as a line or arrow.

5 3. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
6 displaying as a top grouping a subset of the plurality of relational objects; and
7 wherein receiving a selection input further comprises receiving a selection input that
8 corresponds to a selected one of the relational objects in the top grouping.

1 4. (Currently amended) The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
2 receiving a find input;
3 performing a search of the plurality of relational objects in order to determine whether
4 one or more of the relational objects is associated with the find input; and
5 if one or more of the relational objects is associated with the find input, displaying as a
6 find grouping the one or more relational objects associated with the find input.

7 5. (Original) The method recited in Claim 4, wherein:
8 the selection input identifies one of the relational objects in the find grouping.

1 6. (Original) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:
2 one or more of the plurality of relational objects represents a person.

1 7. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein the focus node is the common
2 node of the first and second hierarchies.

1 8. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein identifying a context of the focus
2 node comprises:
3 identifying a context of the focus node based on the selection input.

1 9. (New) A method of using a computer system for navigating and
2 displaying a plurality of nodes, the method comprising:
3 receiving data;
4 identifying, based on the received data, a focus node, wherein:
5 the focus node is one of the plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first
6 hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;
7 the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;
8 the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy
9 of nodes;
10 the common node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a
11 second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;
12 the common node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes
13 in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of
14 one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and
15 the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more
16 nodes;
17 identifying a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with one of the
18 first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes; and
19 providing data to allow a display medium to display the focus node and the one or more
20 nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated
21 with the context of the focus node.

1 10. (New) The method recited in Claim 9 further comprising:
2 providing data to allow the display medium to display the parent node of the focus node
3 in the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus
4 node.

1 11. (New) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein the context of the focus node is
2 associated with the first hierarchy of nodes.

1 12. (New) The method recited in Claim 9 further comprising:
2 identifying the first and second hierarchies of nodes;
3 identifying the first and second parent nodes; and
4 identifying the first and second child sub-trees of nodes.

1 13. (New) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein determining a context of the focus
2 node comprises:
3 receiving data identifying one of the first parent node and the second parent node,
4 wherein if the first parent node is identified, the context is associated with the first
5 hierarchy of nodes and if the second parent node is identified, the context is
6 associated with the second hierarchy of nodes.

1 14. (New) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein identifying a context of the focus
2 node comprises:
3 identifying a context of the focus node based on the received data.

1 15. (New) A method of using a computer system for navigating and
2 displaying a plurality of nodes, the method comprising:
3 providing data that identifies a focus node, wherein:
4 the focus node is one of the plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first
5 hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;
6 the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;
7 the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy
8 of nodes;
9 the common node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a
10 second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;
11 the common node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes
12 in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of
13 one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and
14 the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more
15 nodes;

16 providing data that identifies a context of the focus node, wherein the context is
17 associated with one of the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of
18 nodes; and
19 displaying, on a display medium, the focus node and the one or more nodes of the child
20 sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of
21 the focus node.

1 16. (New) The method recited in Claim 15 further comprising:
2 displaying on a display medium the parent node of the focus node in the hierarchy of
3 nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

1 17. (New) The method recited in Claim 15 wherein the context of the focus node is
2 associated with the first hierarchy of nodes.

1 18. (New) The method recited in Claim 15 further comprising:
2 providing data to identify the first and second hierarchies of nodes;
3 providing data to identify the first and second parent nodes; and
4 providing data to identify the first and second child sub-trees of nodes.

1 19. (New) The method recited in Claim 15 wherein determining a context of the
2 focus node comprises:
3 providing data identifying one of the first parent node and the second parent node,
4 wherein if the first parent node is identified, the context is associated with the first
5 hierarchy of nodes and if the second parent node is identified, the context is
6 associated with the second hierarchy of nodes.

1 20. (New) The method recited in Claim 15 wherein identifying a context of the focus
2 node comprises:
3 providing data identifying a context of the focus node.

1 21. (New) A computer program media comprising processor executable code for:
2 identifying, based on received data, a focus node, wherein:

3 the focus node is one of the plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first
4 hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;
5 the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;
6 the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy
7 of nodes;
8 the common node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a
9 second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;
10 the common node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes
11 in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of
12 one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and
13 the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more
14 nodes;
15 identifying a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with one of the
16 first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes; and
17 providing data to allow a display medium to display the focus node and the one or more
18 nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated
19 with the context of the focus node.

1 22. (New) The computer program product recited in Claim 21 further comprising
2 processor executable code for:
3 providing data to allow the display medium to display the parent node of the focus node
4 in the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus
5 node.

1 23. (New) The computer program product recited in Claim 21 wherein the context of
2 the focus node is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes.

1 24. (New) The computer program product recited in Claim 21 further comprising
2 processor executable code for:
3 identifying the first and second hierarchies of nodes;
4 identifying the first and second parent nodes; and
5 identifying the first and second child sub-trees of nodes.

1 25. (New) The computer program product recited in Claim 21 wherein the code for
2 determining a context of the focus node further comprises processor executable code for:
3 receiving data identifying one of the first parent node and the second parent node,
4 wherein if the first parent node is identified, the context is associated with the first
5 hierarchy of nodes and if the second parent node is identified, the context is
6 associated with the second hierarchy of nodes.

1 26. (New) The computer program product recited in Claim 21 wherein the code for
2 identifying a context of the focus node further comprises processor executable code for:
3 identifying a context of the focus node based on the received data.

1 27. (New) A computer system comprising:
2 a processor, and
3 a memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising processor executable code
4 for:
5 identifying, based on received data, a focus node, wherein:
6 the focus node is one of the plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first
7 hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;
8 the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;
9 the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy
10 of nodes;
11 the common node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a
12 second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;
13 the common node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes
14 in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of
15 one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and
16 the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more
17 nodes;
18 identifying a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with one of the
19 first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes; and

20 providing data to allow a display medium to display the focus node and the one or more
21 nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated
22 with the context of the focus node.

1 28. (New) The computer system recited in Claim 27 further comprising processor
2 executable code for:
3 providing data to allow the display medium to display the parent node of the focus node
4 in the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus
5 node.

1 29. (New) The computer system recited in Claim 27 wherein the context of the focus
2 node is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes.

1 30. (New) The computer system recited in Claim 27 further comprising processor
2 executable code for:
3 identifying the first and second hierarchies of nodes;
4 identifying the first and second parent nodes; and
5 identifying the first and second child sub-trees of nodes.

1 31. (New) The computer system recited in Claim 27 wherein the code for
2 determining a context of the focus node further comprises processor executable code for:
3 receiving data identifying one of the first parent node and the second parent node,
4 wherein if the first parent node is identified, the context is associated with the first
5 hierarchy of nodes and if the second parent node is identified, the context is
6 associated with the second hierarchy of nodes.

1 32. (New) The computer system recited in Claim 27 wherein the code for identifying
2 a context of the focus node further comprises processor executable code for:
3 identifying a context of the focus node based on the received data.

1 33. (New) A computer system comprising:
2 means for identifying, based on received data, a focus node, wherein:

3 the focus node is one of the plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first
4 hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;
5 the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;
6 the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy
7 of nodes;
8 the common node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a
9 second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;
10 the common node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes
11 in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of
12 one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and
13 the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more
14 nodes;
15 means for identifying a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with
16 one of the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes; and
17 means for providing data to allow a display medium to display the focus node and the one
18 or more nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be
19 associated with the context of the focus node.